

# Joint Meeting of Randolph Township Zoning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals and Township Trustees

May 7, 2015

Present: Dolores Hermann, John Stephens, Marge Watson, Joni Keener, Virginia McKay, Kelly Maile, Chuck Guthier, Paul Hyde Sr., Margaret Hyde, Jack Brazeon, Margaret Francis, John Francis, D. Goodyear, Fred Huth, Glen Englehart, Kevin Steiner, Mark Wise, Mike Lang, Roger Klodt, Sue White, Betty Siegfert, Gary Harrison, Bob Moledor, Brad Miller, Rick Huth, Josh Allen, Jason Bonecutter, Erin Myrla

Steiner: Opened meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00pm. Welcomed attendees. Read statement regarding a Facebook page that is not the official Randolph Township Facebook page.

S. White: Reported that T. Peetz from Regional Planning feels there could be useful zoning changes. Spoke about ethics.

M. Lang: Feels that if he even has to ask an ethics commission about voting on an issue, he probably shouldn't be voting on it. It should be voted on by the people.

K. Steiner: Variance applicants need to be notified that they are responsible for submitting all information necessary.

M. Lang: If form is not complete, meeting should be postponed.

D. Hermann: Past Zoning Inspector didn't accept incomplete applications.

G. Harrison: Agrees with Dolores. Complaints need to go to Zoning Inspector. ZI need to do paperwork and make sure it's complete.

B. Miller: Have a checklist for applicants.

K. Steiner: If boards hear a complaint, they need to address complaints. The sheriff, EPA have nothing to do with township zoning.

R. Klodt: If a person contacts him, he directs them to the ZI. According to the Zoning Resolution (ZR), trustees don't have the authority to act on complaints. Chapter 3 in ZR has the responsibilities broken down.

S. White: Discussed the process to change zoning.

M. Lang: It's up to the person(s) wanting the change to get it on the ballot. Discussed procedure.

D. Hermann: Asked where to find that in the ORC.

M. Lang: Responded that the information had come from township's attorney. Discussed procedure.

S. White: When elected she thought some zoning wasn't quite right. Zoning Commission didn't want to change it at the time.

K. Steiner: People think that we charge for sending an infraction notice. We don't.

R. Klodt: When violation continues, prosecutor can get a judgment and the court may set a fine. The township doesn't have the authority to fine.

K. Steiner: Asked if the ZC or BZA wanted to draft a letter to the editor.

S. White: Thought about doing one personally saying that Randolph is nice with good, patriotic people.

M. Lang: Thought it best not to do so. They should put out fires as they come up. He knows nothing about Facebook, but the issue will probably die out.

K. Steiner: Facebook is a forum for misinformation.

M. Lang: The issue has been addressed and it's not smart to bring it up.

Resident (unknown): Why penalize someone over this?

M. Lang: Because the township has a standard. The former ZI used an official document. The person who wrote it knew it was wrong to do.

Resident (unknown): How did it get there?

S. White: Former ZI is very upset. It was a bad decision. He treated people well. He was on a learning curve and was in constant contact with the prosecutor. He was trying to lighten the mood. He is a good worker and a good person. We had decided to put Erin in the position to help Bruce and felt she would do a good job. Erin was taking over for four months.

Resident (unknown): He wrote this, but didn't put it on Facebook?

S. White: Right.

M. Lang: When appointed to represent the community, there's no margin of error. It's no place for fooling around. Bosses trust you not to do erroneous things.

S. White: Intention is a big part of someone's action. His intention wasn't meant to harm.

Resident (unknown): This is making a mountain out of a mole hill. Time to forgive and move on with no hard feelings.

R. Huth: Thought the issue was settled. Why write a letter to the editor?

S. White: To correct misinformation. People thought Randolph Township was doing things to the Sarchione's that we really didn't. Mike's right 99.9% of the time. It's best to forget it.

Resident (unknown): Let it rest, take the emotion out of it.

J. Allen: Maybe put flags out early for Memorial Day. We all make mistakes. Feels sorry for Bruce. Sometimes we use humor to break tension.

K. Steiner: Township is small and close knit, like a family. We fight like family and make up like family. It was taken out of hand.

Resident (unknown): Asked if Bruce gave the citation to Sarchione's.

R. Klodt: Stated he gave it to them. Thought it was funny. John wasn't there and he left it on his desk thinking that John would come to him.

Resident (unknown): Thanks for being honest.

R. Klodt: When I laid it on the desk, he wasn't there. I fully expected him to holler at me then I would have told him this was a joke.

Resident (unknown): It was Sarchione's fault for putting it on Facebook.

R. Klodt: John claimed he didn't know it was a joke.

J. Brazeon: Sarchione could have declined the TV interview.

R. Klodt: Can just tell you what I did-no one else.

J. Brazeon: Feels bad for Bruce, he's taking the heat.

D. Hermann: It was very unprofessional.

J. Brazeon: Would it be an illegal letter?

M. Lang: It was on township letterhead, signed and dated.

S. White: Talked to John Sarchione today and told him Bruce is a good guy. John doesn't want to see him lose his job.

K. Steiner: ZC, please introduce yourself. BZA, please introduce yourself. Everyone knows the trustees. Erin Myrla is now the acting ZI.

B. Miller: Talked with Todd Peetz. The ZC will hold a meeting on May 14, 2015 at 7:00pm with him.

K. Steiner: T. Peetz gave suggested changes in February.

G. Harrison: ZC writes the rules. Chapter 1, pages 1 and 2 tells what zoning objectives are. It's here to help people. Copies are available.

R. Huth: When was zoning put in town?

Multiple responses: 1968

R. Huth: When did boards get established?

R. Klodt: The process to set up boards comes from the ORC.

R. Huth: Are members appointed?

Multiple responses: Yes, 5 year term.

M. Lang: It's good practice to move from ZC to BZA.

R. Huth: If you have a complaint, who do you see first? Ex., junk vehicles.

M. Lang: Erin is not appointed junk vehicle inspector.

S. White: Discussed how to change zoning.

M. Lang: The trustee vote needs to be 2 of 3 trustees. It used to be 3 of the 3 trustees.

R. Huth: There's many violators. So we need a written complaint. It seems one group is being picked on.

M. Lang: It's how they went about it.

Resident (unknown): There are many violators. Doesn't everyone see them? Why need a written complaint?

K. Steiner: Not all may see. If I do, I would talk to Erin.

S. White: If we pick on everyone for every little thing, we're a policing township. Farms can have whatever they want. Afraid to pick too much or people will vote zoning out.

B. Sieferth: You can talk to the ZI, but you must file a zoning complaint.

Resident (unknown): That didn't work with the last two.

S. White: There is one open position on both the ZC and BZA. There is one member of the BZA who travels often. Bruce was to call to see if he wants to step down. Will make a suggestion to move someone from ZC to BZA. Pat McGowan resigned.

K. Steiner: ZC meetings are the 4th Monday of every month. He started by coming to these meetings.

S. White: If you have a complaint, fill out a written complaint. ZI will send notice on actual violations.

K. Steiner: Potential map changes will be discussed at ZC meetings.

S. White: Portage Planning is making suggestion to have the map make more sense.

K. Steiner: People should come and have input.

J. Stevens: From Edinburg BZA. Likes to see how other BZA work.

E. Myrla: Stated new office hours. Monday 3:30pm-5:30pm, Wednesday 9:00am-1:00pm and by appointment.

D. Hermann: How long has it been since there was a Zoning Secretary? They worked together with record keeping. It helps to have a secretary.

M. Lang: Many who did it just quit coming. We made the ZI, the Zoning Secretary.

S. White: Would you like to be secretary?

D. Hermann: Would like to take it under consideration.

E. Myrla: The May 11, 2015 continuance hearing has been postponed. The request to postpone the hearing was made by the applicant's attorney because they did not have the requested paperwork ready. Will notify when a new date is scheduled.

R. Klodt: We will do a better job about putting Zoning meetings on the sign in town.

H. Kline: Question about some trees.

M. Lang: Will look into it.

F. Huth: By the Chevy dealer, shouldn't there be security fence by the hill? Concerns about kids. It's the contractors fault.

K. Steiner: Would imagine the contractor should know there wasn't a fence.

S. White: Mike will handle it.

M. Lang: It's the contractor's job.

H. Kline: Any grade over 25% needs to be seeded, but there's no way to seed that.

Resident (unknown): It needs a safety fence.

K. Steiner: Adjourned meeting at 8:05pm.